DUR

October 19, 1950

EE - Mr. Johnson

R

I attach the Latvian Legation's Aide-Memoire of October 18, 1950 and Latvian Legation's Note of October 18, 1950 which were handed to Mr. Vedeler of EE on October 19.

Please record their receipt and route to UNA/R for action.

Attachments

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY W. Gilman DATE 9/1/83
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

DUR:EE:VJohnson:dy
10-19-50

Handed by Latvian Charge on 10/19/50

LATVIAN LEGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

October 18, 1950

ACTION
is assigned to

Sir:

A year ago in August the immigration to the United States of the Latvian displaced persons, former soldiers, was suddenly interrupted. This Legation has presented several memoranda to that effect with documented evidence asking that this restriction be revoked as injust. Since the problem of displaced persons was at that time being discussed in Congress it was impossible, as I was informed by the Department of State, to reach any decisions in principle before Congress had taken a definite position in this matter.

XR 760C.0221 760C.411

After Congress had acted on this question the Displaced Persons Commission made a decision establishing October 1943 as the cut off date for the admission of mobilized former Latvian soldiers. To counteract this measure, in my note of August 24, 1950 I asked that this restriction be withdrawn, and as far as

760C.00/10-1850

The Honorable
Dean Acheson
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D.C.

159282

UNA/R Adviser on Refugees and Displaced Persons
Memorandum
OCT 20 1950
Distributed interestedly
Office of United Nations Affairs
JLLa 11/21 LAS

760C.00/10-1850
CS/JEC

I know the Displaced Persons Commission, in compliance with the request of the Department of State, re-examined this question and in its decision of September 1, 1950 established the following:

> "That the Baltic Waffen S.S. Units (Baltic Legion) are to be considered as a separate and distinct in purpose, ideology, activities, and qualifications for membership from the German SS, and therefore the Commission holds them not to be a movement hostile to the Government of the United States under Section 13 of the Displaced Persons Act, as amended."

The above decision of the Displaced Persons Commission did not provide any cut off date, and when I orally asked the Department of State whether the decision of September 1, 1950 had voided the previously mentioned cut off date, October 15, 1943, I was informed that this restriction had been withdrawn and that this new decision refers to all forcibly mobilized former Latvian soldiers.

It appears now that the Displaced Persons Commission has again introduced a new cut off date - April 17, 1943. There is enclosed a copy of an Information Memorandum of the Displaced Persons Commission Headquarters, dated September 15, 1950, which in addition to this cut off date contains also other unjust and discriminating restrictions. The Latvian Central Committee in Germany in its memorandum of October 6, 1950 protested in Frankfurt against this decision of the Displaced Persons Commission.

According to this memorandum of October 6, 1950 of the Latvian Central Committee, with enclosures, a copy of which is enclosed herewith, it is conclusively proven that several mobilizations had been carried out by the German authorities in Latvia prior to April 17, 1943, some of them as early as February 1943. Also in my previous notes on this subject, I have emphasized the fact that the mobilization of the Latvians was started at least by February 1943.

It appears that the unfavorable decision of the Displaced Persons Commission establishing April 17, 1943 as cut off date has been based on unreliable and erroneous evidence. On the other hand, the proof of German mobilization in Latvia, as of February 1943, has been taken from the documents of the Nurnberg trials prepared by reliable American authorities.

Taking into consideration the above, I kindly request your assistance in causing the removal of the cut off date of April 17, 1943, established by the instruction of the Displaced Persons Commission of September 15, 1950, unjustly discriminating bona fide Latvian displaced persons who had been mobilized by the German occupational authorities in Latvia.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

J. Feldmans
Minister Plenipotentiary,
Charge d'Affaires
of Latvia

Enclosures

Copy

L A T V I E S U
CENTRALA KOMITEJA
Latvian Central Committee

(21a) Augustdorf b.Detmold
British Zone

October 6th, 1950

To: :U.S. Displaced Persons Commission Headquarters
Frankfurt
APO 757

Subject Baltic Waffen SS Units (Baltic Legions).

In connection with your Instr.Memo.Nr. 168 dated September 15th, 1950, on the above subject, the impression arises that you are not adequately informed about the political situation, actions of the German occupying power and the right of Latvians, as a people of an occupied country, at the time of German occupation in Latvia.

In order that the injustices caused to the "screened out" former Latvian soldiers be rectified, I would like to draw your attention to the documents which are at my disposal and copies of which are enclosed.

I. Chief of the Welfare Division, Health, Care and Maintenance Dept. Miss Marie O. Lane writes in her letter, dated 16th March, 1950:

"..... The Executive Committee of IRO decided that the mobilization date of April 17th 1943. was the correct one. This date was also stated to be correct by General Bangerskis, the Inspector-General of the Latvian Legion, prior to his departure to the United States". (Appendix 1)

As you will see from attached documents, this decision is founded on assumed facts which have not been checked and which are not correct.

1. General Bangerskis has not gone to the USA, but is still in Germany, Camp Ohmstedt at Oldenburg, and a copy of his testimony stating that he has never said anything to that effect, and has, in fact, never been asked about it, is enclosed. (Appendix 2.)

II. Available for your inspection if you desire so, are also exhaustive mobilization lists of the former Latvian Legion. From these lists it is clearly to be seen that mobilization in Latvia was begun as early as February 1943.

III. Document Nr. 3302. (Appendix 3.), as translated:

1. Secret Telegram from SS-General Jeckeln, SS-Police Chief for Ostland, in Riga
to SS-Reichsfuhrer Himler's personal staff in Berlin
dated 19th Febr. 1943.
"..There is complete agreement between the Ostland Commander of the Wehrmacht, Saukel's special agent and myself. In a few days the Joint Board will review the mustering of the age-groups born 1919 - 1925. All men fit for service go to the Legion; those who are not 100% fit will be sent to the Commander of the Wehrmacht as "Hilfswillige" (auxiliaries) for the Northern Army Group; those fit only for work will be placed at the disposal of Gauleiter Saukel".

2. Documents Nr. 3379.(Appendix 4.)

From: Chief of the SS-HQ, SS-General Berger
To: SS-Reichsfuhrer's personal staff in Berlin
dated: 17.4.1943.
"..... Comprised till 15.4.1943
15.025 Latvians and
6.455 Estonians
Enlisted and attached to Army Units
2.478 Latvians and
2.850 Estonians

3. Document Nr. 3303. (Appendix 5.)

From: Chief of the SS-HQ, SS-General Berger
To: Reichsfuhrer's personal staff in Berlin
dated: 4.5.1943.
".....The mustering in Latvia does not advance because not fewer than 4 authorities have given orders:
1. des Hohere SS-und Polizeifuhrer Ostland
2. der Chef des SS-Fuhrungshauptamtes
3. der General kommissar in Lettland
4. der Chef des SS-Hauptamtes.

Present situation:

Conscripted for the Latvian Legion		20.827 men
	from which	525 officers
enrolled		8.125 men
	from which	300 officers

Those a/n documents clearly show that :

a) Mobilization was to start a few days after 19th February 43. (Document Nr. 3302. Append. 3), which agrees with the declaration of General Bangerskis stating that mobilization was started on 26th February, 1943.

b) Mobilization was organized and carried out by German occupying forces (Document Nr. 3303. Append.5), and the mobilized men are joined up into the Legion according to their state of health and not according to their wish. They never had "a prior choice of serving in the Reichsarbeitsdienst or the Wehrmacht". (Doc.Nr.3302.App.3).

c) Until April 1943 there had already been mustered and accepted by Ersatzkommando 15.025 Latvians, but already attached to Army Units 2.478 Latvians (Doc.Nr.3379.App.4.).

d) Together with the mobilization of age groups b.1919-1925, for the requirements of the Legion were mobilized also officers and N.C.Os. These officers and NCOs were older and were not comprised in the a/m age-groups, therefore they were mobilized individually by an individual mobilization order sent directly to them.

IV. In view of the a/M documents and my own explanations I would like to request you to inform all area workers that :

a) mobilization of latvian officers, N.C.Os and other ranks was started by the German occupying power already on February 26th, 1943;

b) that the mobilized men were attached to the Latvian Legion according to their state of health, and they had no choice of serving in the Reichsarbeitsdienst or the Legion.

(V. JANUMS)
Chairman of the Latvian Central Committee

Encl.: 5

(V. Lambergs)
Liaison Officer to DP Commission,
Vice-Chairman, Latvian Central Committee

Copy

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

U.S. DISPLACED PERSONS COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS.

FRANKFURT, APO 757

COPY

To : All Area Workers Instr. Memo. Nr 168

From : Ugo Carusi Date : 15. Sept. 1950

Subject : Baltic Waffen SS. Units /Baltic Legions/

---

1. At a meeting of the Commission held September 1.1950, the following decision was duly made:

" That the Baltic Waffen S.S. Units /Baltic Legion/ are to be considered as a separate and distinct in purpose, ideology, activities, and qualifications for membership from the German SS, and therefore the Commission holds them not to be a movement hostile to the Government of the United States under Section 13 of the Displaced Persons Act, as amended. "

2. Accordingly, cases involving members of those units will be processed and decided in the same manner and by the same standards required by the law and regulations in other military cases, particularly in respect of satisfying paragraph 702.8/e/ and /f/ of the Commission's Rules and Regulations and Section 13 in its entirity.

3. In this regard, Instruction Memoranda 150 and 151 are still in full force and effect.

4. Where a file does not have incorporated therein the Berlin Documents Centre or Central Intelligence Agency checks in conformance with memoranda above referred to, these should be requisitioned immediately upon receipt of the file in the area.

5. Since the Commission must determine eligibility and, pursuant to Section 10, it cannot certify such an applicant as eligible under the Act if it knows or has reason to believe that the alien is not a displaced person and an eligible displaced person, the following excerpt of the IRO Manual for Eligibility Officers is set forth for your background information in dealing with these cases:

> "Members of the Waffen S.S. Divisions who started military service before the first compulsory conscription in April 1943 will be regarded as volunteers and therefore outside the mandate of IRO unless they can prove to the contrary.
>
> Members of the Waffen S.S. who had a prior choice of serving in the Reichsarbeitsdienst or the Wehrmacht and who volunteered for the Waffen S.S. are outside the mandate of IRO."

Appendix 1.

Copy

COPY

INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ORGANIZATION

I R O

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE POUR LES REFUGIES

Palais Wilson
Rue des Paquis
GENEVE

REF: No 495/11

16th March, 1950

Mr. H. Klarks, Chairman
Latvian Central Committee
Augsburg, DP Camp Hochfeld
U.S. Zone of Germany

Dear Mr. Klarks,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your memorandum of March 1st, 1950 addressed to the Director-General of IRO, which was passed to us for comment.

We have carefully studied the document in question and have not found any information contained therein which has not already been forwarded to this Headquarters by your Liaison Officers here in Geneva, or by members of Latvian Committees in other areas of the operation. We have studied the question of Latvian ex-soldiers who served in the Waffen SS, and as a result of our exhaustive research, the Executive Committee of IRO decided that the mobilization date of April 17th, 1943 was the correct one. This date was also stated to be correct by General Bangerskis, the Inspector-General of the Latvian Legion, prior to his departure to the United States. With regard to soldiers, who were decorated and received promotion while in the Latvian SS, this in itself is not a cause for exclusion on the grounds that the person voluntarily assisted the enemy forces, but is merely one factor in the whole chain of circumstances or facts which determine whether or not a given person falls within the mandate of the Organization.

A copy of this letter will be sent to the IRO, U.S. Zone of Germany Headquarters for their information and in order that they are informed with regard to your memorandum.

Sincerely yours,

Signed: /Marie D. Lane/
Chief Welfare Division
Health, Care and
Maintenance Department

Appendix 2.

Copy

COPY

TESTIMONY

In the letter of the 18th March, 1950 /Ref. N.495/ addressed to the Chairman of the Latvian Central Committee, Mr. H. Klarks, by IRO/ the text of which, in copy, has been shown to me/ it is said that I, the former Inspector-General of the Latvian Legion, R. Bangerskis, have mentioned April 17th, 1945 as the opening date of mobilization in Latvia. In this connection, I have to state that I have never, in any place or circumstances, maintained that April 17-th, 1943 should be regarded as the beginning of the mobilization of Latvians. Such a question has never been put to me. In 1948 in the I.R.O. Office in Oldenburg I had a conversation about the injustifiable sending to the front line of 1,000 Latvian youth, and in that conversation I mentioned March 30th, 1943 as the date on which these youths were sent. These youths were, of course, compulsory mobilized a few days before that date.

In addition, I can also mention that among my papers I have kept an-extract from the Minutes of February 23rd, 1943 of the Latvian Self-Administration, No. 85, from which it can be seen that young men born between the years 1919 and 1924 had received summonses from German Labour Offices to appear for mobilization on February 26th, 1943. All this data mentioned by me, however, does not mean that there were not compulsory enlistments even earlier.

/ R. Bangerskis/
Former Inspector-General of the
Latvian Legion

Oldenburg, 4th April, 1950

Appendix 3.

OFFICE OF CHIEF COUNSIL FOR WAR CRIMES
KOPIE DES DOCUMENTS NO. 3302
/Stempel/ GEHEIM !

COPY

Persönlicher Stab Reichsführer-SS
Schriftgutverwaltung
Akt Nr. Geh./113

---hssupf riga nr 607 19/2/43
an rf-ss, feldkommandostelle --
g e h e i m -

ss - gruf berger gab mir nachricht über gerüchte, die aufstellung der lett.bzw. litlegion betreffen, ich melde hierzu zwischen wehrmachtsbefehlshaber ostland dem beauftragten des gauleiters saukel und mir herrscht bestes einvernehmen. in wenigen tagen werden durch gemischte komissionen musterungen der jahrgäge 1919 bis 1925 erfolgen alle brauchbaren männer kommen in erster linie zur legion, minder brauchbare erhält der wehrmachtsbefehlshaber als hilfsdienst - willige für heeresgruppe nord, arbeitsfähige werden dem gauleiter saukel überstellt. hoffe aufstellung der lett.bzw. lit. divisionen in stärke von je 15.000 mann in kurzer zeit bewerkstelligen zu können.

reichskommissar Lohse nicht in riga anwesend, wird jedoch heute erwartet es soll dann sofort in einvernehmen mit den vorgenannten dienststellen dem generalkommissar lettland und der landeseigenen verwaltung aufruf erfolgen.

ss-gruppenführer berger wird heute von mir gebeten die eigenen führer für musterungskommissionen sofort nach hier in marsch zu setzen.

hssupf ostland
gez. j e c k e l n
ss-obergruppenführer

- 19/2 1800 eins nr 607 - vhwf/wolff ---

A certified copy

End

Appendix 4.

Copy

COPY

DOCUMENT NO - 3379
OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNCIL FOR
WAR CRIMES

Persönlicher Stab Reichsführer - SS
Schriftgutverwaltung
Akt. Nr.Geh./113

Der Reichsführer - SS
CHEF DES SS-HAUPTAMTES
Cd SS Ha/Be.Ra.-AZ.2 -
Bitte in der Antwort vorstehendes Geschäftszeichen un Datum angeben.

Berlin-Wilmersdorf 1
den 17. 4. 1943
Hohenzollerndamm 34
Postschliessfach 58

Betr.: Ersatzlage des Ersatzkommandos Ostland, Riga

An den

Reichsführer - SS und
Chef der Deutschen Polizei
Berlin SW II
Prinz-Albert Str. 8

Reichsführer :

Erfasst wurden mit dem Stichtag 15.4.1943

15 025 Letten und
6 455 Esten

Zur Truppe einberufen sind :

2 478 Letten und
2 850 Esten.

Ich merke, dass Besprechungen im Gange sind, aus Lettland nicht nur eine Division sondern ein Korps aufzustellen. Ich bitte, es bei der Aufstellung einer Division und einer Brigade, die aus SS-tauglichen besteht, bewanden lassen zu wollen, da sonst Nachersatz gefärdet.

gez. G. B e r g e r
SS-Gruppenführer

Persönlicher Stab
Reichsführer - SS
Eingang: as 19.April 1943
TGb.Nr.36/105/43 g.

Appendix 5

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNCIL FOR WAR CRIMES
Copie des Documents No - 3303

COPY

/Stempel/
Persönlicher Stab Reichsführer - SS
Schriftgutverwaltung

Der Reichsführer - SS
Chef des SS-Hauptamtes
CSSHA/Bo/Ra./Vs-Tgb.Nr.356443 g. Akt.Nr.Geh./113

Berlin-Wilmersdorf, den 4.5.43.
Hohenzollerndamm 31
Postschliessfach 58
/Stempel/ Geheim
/handschriftlich/
Brief von Gruf. Pueckler
v. 8.6. an RF gegeben Br.
/Brandt/

Betr.: Ersatzlage Ostland

An den

Reichsführer - SS
Chef der Deutschen Polizei

Berlin SW II
Prinz-Albercht Str. 8

Reichsführer :

Um wirklich klar sehen zu können,habe ich auf Grund Ihres Befehls vom 26.4.1943 die Ersatzlage überprüft und den SS-Standarenführer HIERTHES nach Berlin befohlen. Das nichtvorgehen der Musterung in Lettland kommt daher, dass nicht weniger als vier Stellen Befehl gegeben haben :

1. der Höhere SS- und Polizeiführer Ostland
2. der Chef des SS-Führungshauptamtes
3. der Generalkommissar in Lettland
4. der Chef des SS-Hauptamtes.

HIERTHES versuchte die Befehle von mir durchzuführen. Es wurde ihm aber klar bedeutet, dass diese Befehle durch solche des Reichsführers überholt seien und dass bei Nichtbefolgung der örtlich gegebenen Befehle er Ostland sofort zu verlassen hätte. Damit konnte HIERTHES nur noch mithelfen, keinesfalls selbstständig entscheiden. Der einzige Fehler den er gemacht hat, war der dass er aus einer gewissen Furcht heraus mich persönlich nicht

/Seite 2 des Originals/

laufend unterrichtet hat.

Ersatzlage:

1/ für lettische Legion wurden	erfasst	20 827	Mann
	davon	525	Offiziere
	einberufen	8 125	Mann
	davon	300	Offiziere

Hiervon gelange 1000 Mann zu einem von Reichsführer-SS befohlenen Austausch mit der Polizei

2/ Estland	erfasst	8 734	Mann
	einberufen	6 224	Mann

In Estland wurde nicht dazwischen regiert,. daher ist dort die Sache auch schön vorangegangen.

Dass in Lettland nicht mehr einberufen wurde, ist bedingt durch den Mangel an Unterkünften und ausbildungspersonal.

SS - Standartenführer HIERTHES wurde von mir angewiesen ohne Rücksicht auf Verluste die Gesamtergänzung in dem Raum Ostland in die Hand zu nehmen und verantwortlich zu leiten. Entschuldigungen irgendwelcher Art würden von mir in Zukunft nicht mehr angenommen werden.

gez. G. B e r g e r
SS-Gruppenführer

/Stempel/

A certified true copy.

End.

October 13, 1950

Sir:

A year ago in August the immigration to the United State of the Latvian displaced persons, former soldiers, was suddenly interrupted. This Legation has presented several memoranda to that effect with documented evidence asking that this restriction be revoked as injust. Since the problem of displaced persons was at that time being discussed in Congress it was impossible, as I was informed by the Department of State, to reach any decisions in principle before Congress had taken a definite position in this matter.

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Washington, D.C.

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Minister Plenipotentiary,
Charge d'Affaires
of Latvia

Enclosures

Copy

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

U.S. DISPLACED PERSONS COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS.

FRANKFURT, [illegible]

COPY

To : All Area Workers Instr. Memo. Nr 11

From : Ugo Carusi Date : 1. Sept. 1950

Subject : Baltic Waffen S.S. Units /Baltic Legions/

---

1. At a meeting of the Commission held September 1.1950, the following decision was duly made:

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Copy

LATVIESU
CENTRĀLĀ KOMITEJA
Latvian Central Committee

(21a) Augustdorf b.Detmold
British Zone

October 6th, 1950

To: U.S. Displaced Persons Commission Headquarters
Frankfurt
APO 757

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a) Mobilization was to start a few days after 19th February 43. (Document Nr. 3302. Append. 3), which agrees with the declaration of General Bangerskis stating that mobilization was started on 26th February, 1943.

b) Mobilization was organized and carried out by German occupying forces (Document Nr. 3303. Append.5), and the mobilized men are joined up into the Legion according to their state of health and not according to their wish. They never had "a prior choice of serving in the Reichsarbeitsdienst or the Wehrmacht". (Doc.Nr.3302.App.3).

c) Until April 1943 there had already been mustered and accepted by Ersatzkommando 15.025 Latvians, but already attached to Army Units 2.478 Latvians (Doc.Nr.3379.App.4.).

d) Together with the mobilization of age groups b.1919-1925, for the requirements of the Legion were mobilized also officers and N.C.Os. These officers and NCOs were older and were not comprised in the a/m age-groups, therefore they were mobilized individually by an individual mobilization order sent directly to them.

IV. In view of the a/M documents and my own explanations I would like to request you to inform all area workers that :

a) mobilization of Latvian officers, N.C.Os and other ranks was started by the German occupying power already on February 26th, 1943;

b) that the mobilized men were attached to the Latvian Legion according to their state of health, and they had no choice of serving in the Reichsarbeitsdienst or the Legion.

(V. JANUMS)
Chairman of the Latvian Central Committee

Encl.: 5

(V. Lambergs)
Liaison Officer to DP Commission,
Vice-Chairman, Latvian Central Committee

Appendix 1.

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INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ORGANIZATION

I R O GENERAL MILITARY MISSION
POST OFFICE
GENEVA

Telegraphic address:
IROMILMIS
GENEVA

MMI: No 49:/11

16th March, 1950

Mr. K. Klaras, Chairman
Latvian Central Committee
Augsburg, In Camp Hochfeld
U.S. Zone of Germany

Dear Mr. Klarks,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your memorandum of March 1st, 1950 addressed to the Director-General of IRO, which was passed to us for comment.

We have carefully studied the document in question and have not found any information contained therein which has not already been forwarded to this Headquarters by your Liaison Officers here in Geneva, or by members of Latvian Committees in other areas of the operation. We have studied the question of Latvian ex-soldiers who served in the Waffen SS, and as a result of our exhaustive research, the Executive Committee of IRO decided that the mobilization date of April 17th, 1943 was the correct one. This date was also stated to be correct by General Hampersmis, the Inspector-General of the Latvian Legion, prior to his departure to the United States. With regard to soldiers, who were decorated and received promotion while in the Latvian SS, this in itself is not a cause for exclusion on the grounds that the person voluntarily assisted the enemy forces, but is merely one factor in the whole chain of circumstances or facts which determine whether or not a given person falls within the mandate of the Organization.

A copy of this letter will be sent to the IRO, U.S. Zone of Germany Headquarters for their information and in order that they are informed with regard to your memorandum.

Sincerely yours,

Signed: /Marie E. Lane/
Chief Welfare Division
Health, Care and
Maintenance Department

Appendix.

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TESTIMONY

In the letter of the 16th March, 1950 /Ref. N.49/ addressed to the Chairman of the Latvian Central Committee, Mr. H. Klaraks, by H.O/ the text of which, in copy, has been shown to me/ it is said that I, the former Inspector-General of the Latvian Legion, R. Rangerskis, have mentioned April 17th, 1945 as the opening date of mobilization in Latvia. In this connection, I have to state that I have never, in any place or circumstances, maintained that April 17-th, 1945 should be regarded as the beginning of the mobilization of Latvians. Such a question has never been put to me. In 1948 in the I.R.O. Office in Oldenburg I had a conversation about the injustifiable sending to the front line of 1,000 Latvian youth, and in that conversation I mentioned March 30th, 1945 as the date on which these youths were sent. These youths were, of course, compulsory mobilized a few days before that date.

In addition, I can also mention that among my papers I have kept an extract from the Minutes of February 23rd, 1945 of the Latvian Self-Administration, No. 98, from which it can be seen that young men born between the years 1919 and 1924 had received summonses from German Labour Offices to appear for mobilization on February 26th, 1945. All this data mentioned by me, however, does not mean that there were not compulsory enlistments even earlier.

/ R. Rangerskis/
Former Inspector-General of the
Latvian Legion

Oldenburg, 4th April, 1950

COPY

Anschrift.

OFFICE OF CHIEF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES
NÜRNBERG DOCUMENT NO. 680
/stamp/ GRAY

persönlicher stab reichsführer-ss
schriftumverwaltung
akt nr. geh./110

---hssupf riga nr 607 19/1/42
an rf-ss, feldkommandostelle --
g e h e i m -

ss - gruf berger gab mir nachricht über gerüchte, die aufstellung der lett.bzw. litlegion betreffen, ich nahm hierzu zwischen wehrmachtsbefehlshaber ostland des beauftragten des gauleiters saukel und mir herrscht bester einvernehmen. in wenigen tagen werden durch gemischte komissionen musterungen der jahrgäge 1919 bis 1923 erfolgen alle brauchbaren männer kommen in erster linie zur legion, minder brauchbare erhält der wehrmachtsbefehlshaber als hilfsdienst - willige für heeresgruppe nord, arbeitsfähige werden dem gauleiter saukel überstellt. hoffe aufstellung der lett.bzw. lit. divisionen in stärke von je 15.000 mann in kurzer zeit bewerkstelligen zu können.

reichskommissar Lohse nicht in riga anwesend, wird jedoch heute erwartet es soll dann sofort in einvernehmen mit den vorgenannten dienststellen dem generalkommissar lettland und der landeseigenen verwaltung aufruf erfolgen.

ss-gruppenführer berger wird heute von mir gebeten die eigenen führer für musterungskommissionen sofort nach hier in marsch zu setzen.

hssupf ostland
gez. j e c k e l n
ss-obergruppenführer

- 19/1 1400 eins nr 607 - vhwl/wolfi ---

A certified copy

End

COPY

DOCUMENT NO - [illegible]
OFFICIAL CHIEF OF COUNSEL [illegible]
AND CHIEF

Persönlicher Stab Reichsführer - SS
Schriftgutverwaltung
Tgb. Nr. G-n./11d

Der Reichsführer - SS
CHEF DES SS-HAUPTAMTES
Cd SS Ha/Be.Ra.-AZ.: -
Bitte in der Antwort verstehendes Geschäftszeichen und Datum angeben.

Berlin-Wilmersdorf 1
den 17. 4. 1943
Hohenzollerndamm 34
Postschliessfach 88

Betr.: Ersatzlage des Ersatzkommandos Ostland, Riga

An den

Reichsführer - SS und
Chef der Deutschen Polizei
Berlin SW 11
Prinz-Albert Str. 8

Reichsführer :

Erfasst wurden mit dem Stichtag 15.4.1943

15 018 Letten und
6 456 Esten

Zur Truppe einberufen sind :

2 479 Letten und
1 850 Esten.

Ich werde, dass Besprechungen im Gange sind, aus Lettland nicht nur eine Division sondern ein Korps aufzustellen. Ich bitte, es bei der Aufstellung einer Division und einer Brigade, die nur SS-tauglichen besteht, bewenden lassen zu wollen, da sonst Nachersatz gefährdet.

gez. G. Berger
SS-Gruppenführer

Persönlicher Stab
Reichsführer - SS
Eingang: 19. April 1943
TGb.Nr.39/108/43 g.

Appendix 1

COPY

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES
Cont'd der Document No. - 3844

/Stempel/
Persönlicher Stab Reichsführer - SS
Schriftgutverwaltung

Der Reichsführer - SS
Chef des SS-Hauptamtes
CdSHA/Bo/Ba./Vs-Tgb.Nr.850/43 g. Akt.Nr.ch./11c

Betr.: Ersatzlage Ostland

An den

Reichsführer - SS
Chef der Deutschen Polizei

Berlin SW 11
Prinz-Albercht Str. 8

Berlin-Wilmersdorf, den 4.7.43.
Hohenzollerndamm 21
Postschliessfach 58
/Stempel/ Geheim
/handschriftlich/
Brief von Gruf. Pueckler
v. 8.6. an RF gegeben Fr.
/Brandt/

Reichsführer :

Um wirklich klar sehen zu können,habe ich auf Grund Ihres Befehls vom 18.4.1943 die Ersatzlage überprüft und den SS-Standartenführer HIERTHES nach Berlin befohlen. Das nichtvorgehen der Musterung in Lettland kommt daher, dass nicht weniger als vier Stellen Befehl gegeben haben :

1. der Höhere SS- und Polizeiführer Ostland
2. der Chef des SS-Führungshauptamtes
3. der Generalkommissar in Lettland
4. der Chef des SS-Hauptamtes.

HIERTHES versuchte die Befehle von mir durchzuführen. Es wurde ihm aber klar bedeutet, dass diese Befehle durch solche des Reichsführers überholt seien und dass bei Nichtbefolgung der örtlich gegebenen Befehle er Ostland sofort zu verlassen hätte. Damit konnte HIERTHES nur noch mithelfen, keinesfalls selbstständig entscheiden. Der einzige Fehler den er gemacht hat, war der dass er aus einer gewissen Furcht heraus mich persönlich nicht

/Seite 2 des Originals/

laufend unterrichtet hat.

Ersatzlage:

1/ für lettische Legion wurden erfasst	20	847 Mann
davon		545 Offiziere
einberufen	8	145 Mann
davon		300 Offiziere

Hiervon gelange 1000 Mann zu einem von Reichsführer-SS befohlenen Austausch mit der Polizei

1/ Estland erfasst	8	734 Mann
einberufen	6	184 Mann

In Estland wurde nicht dazwischen regiert, daher ist dort die Sache auch schön vorangegangen.

Dass in Lettland nicht mehr einberufen wurde, ist bedingt durch den Mangel an Unterkünften und Ausbildungspersonal.

SS - Standartenführer HIERTHES wurde von mir angewiesen ohne Rücksicht auf Verluste die Gesamtergänzung in dem Raum Ostland in die Hand zu nehmen und verantwortlich zu leiten. Entschuldigungen irgendwelcher Art würden von mir in Zukunft nicht mehr angenommen werden.

gez. G. Berger
SS-Gruppenführer

/Stempel/

A certified true copy.

End.